

(b) There is no such criteria for Mail, Express and passenger Trains.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

IA A-320 Accident On 25.10.96 At Palam Airport

3092 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV
DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether an Indian Airlines A-320 aircraft IC804 arriving from Bangalore bumped into a stationary IL-76 aircraft while parking at the Bay on October 25, 1996 at Delhi's Palam Airport;

(b) if so, the causes of the said accident;

(c) the damage caused to the aircraft, and

(d) the action taken against the Indian Airlines marshallers for their failure to give right indication to the aircraft for parking?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise

Alleged Irregularities in Distribution of CR Coils/Sheets

3093 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) whether gross irregularities in the matter of distribution of CR coils/sheets (keeping the senior bookings pending and servicing the Juni or bookings) by the Branch sales office of SAIL, New Delhi were brought to his notice time and again by various customers and the representatives of the people.

(b) if so, the details in this regard during the period from 01/4/1995 to 31/12/1995;

(c) the action taken on each of them;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct a CBI enquiry to bring to book the officials of SAIL for adopting corrup practices in the bookings/allotment of premium carrying material to their choicest customers picked up arbitrarily under the disguise of his discretionary quata by keeping all senior bookings pending; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e). The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table on the House.

Tourism Development in Kerala

3094. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala regarding the Tourism Development in the State :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). Department of Tourism in consultation with the officials of State Government of Kerala has identified four projects/Schemes at estimated cost of Rs. 80 lakhs for financial assistance during 1996-97. These projects are :

(i) Restoration of Bolghatti Palace Kochi

(ii) Floodlighting of Vada Khumunathan Temple

(iii) Hill Resort Munnar

(iv) Purchase of Riceboats

The Department of Tourism has sanctioned funds for the restoration of Bolghatti Palace Kochi.

The Government of Kerala has, however, not submitted complete, detailed proposals for the other three projects.

Starting of International Channel on Doordarshan

3095. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether an International Channel on Doordarshan has been started on an experimental basis.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which this channel has proved successful;

(c) the financial implication on national exchequer by the introduction of the channel;

(d) the strategy worked out for effective use of DD International for providing positive image of the country to counter anti-India propoganda;

(e) whether representations have been received to close down this channel for want of funds;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Doordarshan launched DD-India as a 3 hrs. service initially on Asiasat-II transponder by utilising 3 hrs. on Zee channel. Thereafter, it was decided to

continue the service by hiring its own transponders. Two transponders were hired on PAS-4 and PAS-1 in August, 1995 for transmitting International Channel in South-Asia, Middle-East, parts of Europe, North Africa, North America and Canada. The transmission hrs. have now been extended to about 18 hrs. i.e. from 6.30 A.M. to 24.00 hrs. It will take some time to gauge the impact of this new channel.

(c) There are no financial implications presently as far as software is concerned because old and current software is being utilised. However, Doordarshan-India (external service) has been operational on transponders leased on PAS-4/PAS-1 since September 1995. The lease charges payable to PANAMSAT are US \$ 3 million per annum for initial 36 months and there after US \$ 4.875 million per annum upto 15 years.

(d) Suitable programmes to present the country and to counter the anti-India propaganda by presenting a factual picture of happening and developments in the country and abroad backed by wholesome entertainment and infotainment programmes are telecast on this channel in addition to the other programmes.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

Distribution of CR Coils/Sheets

3096. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether bookings of CR coils/sheets in bulk quantities against the year 1995 (1.1.95 to 31.12.95) were made arbitrarily and selectively basis in favour of two-three firms only much after the closure of general bookings by the Branch Sales Office, SAIL, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details and justification thereof;

(c) whether all the other firms/customers, except the above two-three firms, attached to the BSO, SAIL, New Delhi were denied the bookings of CR coils/sheets against the above period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the High Court, Delhi had also given a judgement on July 29, 1991 regarding fair distribution of steel materials to customers by SAIL;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps to initiate action against the guilty officers by BSO, SAIL, New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Post of Correspondent Reporter, Rajkot

3097. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether one post of Correspondent/Reporter has been abolished from All India Radio, Rajkot and posted to Kutch where there is already one post of the same;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether representation have been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. One post of Correspondent at AIR, Rajkot has been abolished 10% economy cut in March, 1995 and the incumbent rendered surplus was posted to Kutch (Bhuj), where a vacancy in the same grade existed.

(c) to (e). Yes, representations were received from MPs for shifting of the post of News Reporter, AIR, Bhuj to AIR, Rajkot. Since AIR, Bhuj has a full fledged Regional News Unit (RNU), which covers as well as prepares news bulletins and news based programmes and Rajkot does not have a RNU, the suggestion was not found feasible.

[Translation]

Magnesite in Rajasthan

3098. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent proposals to the Union Government for conducting survey for extraction of Magnesite at Village Prasad, Tehsil Saradha district, Udaipur (Rajasthan);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether this metal is abundantly present in this area;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for exploration of this metal in the State;

(e) the benefit likely to be accrued to the Government from the said mine; and

(f) the number of persons belonging to the tribal area likely to get employment, therein?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.